

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 PA-04 PRS-01 USIA-15 CIAE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6658

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

USINT ALGIERS

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION OECD PARIS

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 15073

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PGOV, EEC, UK

SUBJECT: JOHN ROBINSON NAMED UK AMBASSADOR TO ALGERIA

1. JOHN ROBINSON, THE ASSISTANT UNDER SECRETARY AT THE FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE RESPONSIBLE FOR EUROPEAN COMMUNITY AFFAIRS, HAS BEEN NAMED U.K. AMBASSADOR TO ALGERIA. NEWS OF THE APPOINTMENT APPEARED IN THE BRITISH PRESS ON DECEMBER 21.

2. ROBINSON HAS BEEN WORKING ON EC MATTERS SINCE 1956, IN PARIS, BRUSSELS AND AT THE FCO. HE WAS IN THE BRITISH DELEGATION IN BRUSSELS DURING THE FIRST ROUND OF EC ENLARGEMENT NEGOTIATIONS, AND WAS A KEY MEMBER OF THE BRITISH NEGOTIATING TEAM DURING THE SECOND, SUCCESSFUL ROUND. HE IS INTELLIGENT, DIRECT, CONFIDENTIAL
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HARD-DRIVING AND AN ASTUTE BUREAUCRATIC INFIGHTER. HE IS PARTICULARLY CONSCIOUS OF THE IMPORTANCE FOR EUROPE

OF GOOD RELATIONS WITH THE UNITED STATES. HIS RELATIONS WITH THIS EMBASSY (AS WELL AS WITH OFFICERS FROM USEC AND THE DEPARTMENT) HAVE BEEN CLOSE AND CORDIAL. ROBINSON'S ONLY PREVIOUS LDC EXPERIENCE HAS BEEN AS SECOND SECRETARY IN NEW DELHI IN 1950-52.

3. ROBINSON WILL BE REPLACED IN HIS PRESENT JOB BY MICHAEL BUTLER, WHO IS CURRENTLY HEAD OF THE EXTERNAL AFFAIRS SECTION OF THE FCO'S EUROPEAN INTEGRATION DEPARTMENT. BUTLER'S LAST POST WAS AT THE BRITISH EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON. BUTLER IS BEING REPLACED BY RODRIC BRAITHWAITE, WHO FOR THE PAST SIX MONTHS HAS BEEN WORKING AS SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO THE FCO'S NATO DEPARTMENT WORKING ON MBFR. BRAITHWAITE HAS EXTENSIVE BACKGROUND ON BOTH NATO AND EASTERN EUROPE.

4. COMMENT: ROBINSON LEAVES EUROPEAN INTEGRATION AFFAIRS AT THE FCO IN THE GOOD HANDS OF TWO OFFICIALS (BUTLER AND BRAITHWAITE) WHO ARE STRONGLY CONCERNED WITH THE ATLANTIC IMPLICATIONS OF BRITAIN'S RELATIONS WITH EUROPE.

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